Diseases due to vehicle pollution

79. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pollution caused by vehicles is harmful to the health of the people;

(b) if so, the names of diseases caused by pollution from vehicles; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The vehicular exhaust contains carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, suspended particles including PM-10, benzene, formaldehyde, polycyclic hydrocarbons etc. Several epidemiological studies have shown that the exposure to these compounds is associated with breathing and respiratory problems, aggravation of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, adverse effects on the immune system, damage to the lung tissue and carcinogenesis.

(c) As part of preventive measures to check the pollution levels due to vehicular emissions, the Government has implemented vehicular emission norms and other control measures such as introduction of:

i. Unleaded petrol.

ii. Bharat Stage-I, II & III emission standards.

iii. Low Sulphur diesels.

iv. Low benzene gasoline.

v. CNG fuels for commercial vehicles and public transport.

vi. 'Pollution Under Control' (PUC) certificate.

Central Pollution Control Board is the authority for checking the air pollution levels in various cities and for studying the effects of various control measures through the State Pollution Control Boards.

Shortage of blood components

80. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government run blood banks in the Capital are gripped by a serious shortage and the situation is so serious that even major hospitals are also affected;

(b) whether there is also acute shortage of several blood components such as red blood cell concentrate, platelet concentrate and fresh frozen plasma and cryoprecipitate which are needed for different types of patients;

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to meet the situation if there is an outbreak of some disease like dengue needing blood components?